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Title: Need to cancel the privatisation of salem steel plant in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. R. PARTHIBAN (SALEM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

The Steel Authority of India Limited has invited global bids for privatisation of Salem Steel Plant. All political parties in Tamil Nadu have strongly opposed privatisation of Salem Steel Plant and continue to urge the Central Government to abandon this decision.

The new Salem Steel Plant privatisation has created a turbulent atmosphere among workers and public. Thousands of Salem Steel Plant workers with their families, and the general public of Salem District are protesting against the Central Government's decision.

Sir, in order to protect the interests and welfare of the workers, I would request that the Central Government should cancel the announcement of the privatisation of the Salem Steel Plant, and it should continue to function as a public sector company.

The Salem Steel Plant was started in 1981 by Muththamil Aringer Dr. Kalaignar. The products of the Salem Steel Plant have earned international reputation for their quality. They are exported to more than 37 countries. The Salem Steel Plant is having very good infrastructural facilities and the state-of-the-art technology with an asset base of around Rs. 15,000 crore including 40,000 acres of land. The farmers of this area had volunteered to give their agricultural land to the Government to start the Salem Steel Plant.

The Salem Steel Plant plays a major role in the socio-economic development of the people of Salem. The Salem Steel Plant has spent the loans taken from the public sector banks for its expansion work. Most of the profit of the Salem Steel Plant goes to the banks towards interest payments. So, the Central Government should immediately waive off the loan and interest amount of the Salem Plant.

The Central Government should continue to run this profitable Salem Steel Plant. Workers' welfare must be protected. I would urge upon the Central Government to immediately allocate necessary funds for the expansion of the Salem Steel Plant.

Thank you, Sir.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्यगण, जिन्होंने आज अपनी रिक्वेस्ट दी है, जो माननीय सदस्य यहाँ बैठे हैं, उन सबको आज और कल बोलने का अवसर देने की जिम्मेवारी मेरी है । जो सदस्य सदन में बैठे हुए हैं, उनको मैं आज भी बोलने का अवसर दूँगा और कल भी दूँगा ।